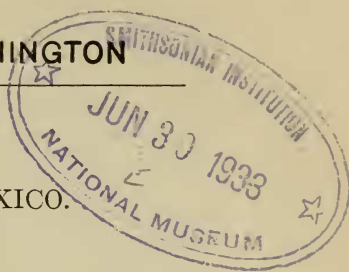


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW MOTMOT FROM MEXICO.

BY ROBERT T. MOORE.

In describing an apparently new Motmot of the genus *Momotus* from Sonora, Mexico, I take great pleasure in naming it for my friend and associate Mr. Adriaan J. van Rossem. In his "Report on a Collection of Land Birds from Sonora, Mexico" (Trans. San Diego Soc. of Nat. Hist., Vol. VI, No. 19, p. 254), van Rossem called attention to two specimens of Motmot in the Dickey collection from Chinobampo, Sonora, exhibiting variation from *Momotus mexicanus mexicanus* Swainson. Although the differences were considerable, he hesitated to name a new race until it could be justified by further specimens. In a recent collection from Sonora which has come into my possession, ten more specimens of this race have appeared and are subject to so little variation among themselves, that they seem to justify their separation under a sub-specific name.

Momotus mexicanus vanrossemi, subsp. nov.

GREEN-TAILED MOTMOT.

Type.—Male adult, No. 7009, collection of Robert T. Moore; Chinobampo, Sonora, Mexico; Feb. 28, 1931; J. T. Wright, collector; original No. 5899.

Sub-specific characters.—Nearest to *Momotus mexicanus mexicanus* Swainson, but size smaller, back more yellowish-olive, tail above greener (pois green to dark greenish glaucous, Ridgway, 1912),¹ tips to "spatules" smaller and much grayer, chest and breast more ecru-olive, abdomen and under tail-coverts more buffy.

Geographical distribution.—Extreme southern Sonora, from Chinobampo to Guirocoba, San Rafael, San Francisco Canyon, and probably to contiguous portions of the same faunal area in Chihuahua and Sinloa. Mr. van Rossem has described this as part of the Alamos faunal area.

Description of type.—Adult male in breeding plumage.—Type, No. 7009, Collection of Robert T. Moore; Chinobampo, Sonora, Mexico, Feb. 28, 1931. Pileum and hind-neck ochraceous-tawny passing into isabella color

¹Names of colors in paper taken from Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.

on upper back and light yellowish olive on lower back; rump and upper tail-coverts between light grape green and corydalis green; wing-coverts and secondaries deep grape green, outer vane of primaries dark bluish glaucous, inner vane along shaft the same color, passing into gray on margin and tips; edge of wing ivory yellow tinged with glaucous; median rectrices pistachio green (deep greenish glaucous when viewed from the side), passing into light porcelain green on the anterior two-thirds of "spatules," the distal third occupied by dark grayish. The remaining rectrices are pistachio green, shafts of rectrices and primaries light seal brown; loral, orbital, and auricular regions black, the black beneath eye margined below by a patch of dull violet blue, the black of the auricular region margined above by light grayish violet blue; chin pale olive buff; base of feathers on throat cream buff, ends of feathers lime green to kildare green; chest lime green to chrysolite green; lower fore-neck with a median tuft of elongated black feathers about an inch and a quarter long, narrowly edged with pale bluish green; breast and upper abdomen deep lichen green; lower abdomen pale olive-buff in the center, cartridge buff on the sides; under tail-coverts cream buff; under wing-coverts tilleul buff, passing into vinaceous buff on inner webs of remiges; bill black, the mandible paler basally; legs and feet neutral gray.

Adult female in breeding plumage.—No. 7008, Collection of Robert T. Moore; San Francisco Canyon, Sinaloa, Mexico, Feb. 5, 1932; J. T. Wright. Very similar to the type of the adult male, but back, rump and upper tail-coverts more yellowish olive; tail much shorter, and lighter (more glaucous); throat, chest and breast more yellowish citrine; lower abdomen and under tail-coverts more buffy (cream buff).

The new race differs from typical *Momotus mexicanus mexicanus* in its shorter wing and exposed culmen; pale green tail instead of bluish green; green anterior portion of the "spatules" of the median tail feathers instead of blue; smaller and grayer tips to the spatules; more yellowish olive back; paler pileum; more yellowish olive throat, chest and breast as compared with the more bluish green of *mexicanus*; buffy whitish abdomen as compared with the greenish buff of *mexicanus*; buffy edge of wing; more olive wing-coverts and secondaries. Comparisons have been made with eight specimens in the Dickey collection of *Momotus mexicanus mexicanus* from Oaxaca to Sinaloa, including the *mexicanus saturatus* described by Nelson, but questioned by Bangs and Peters—Bull. Mus. C. Z. LXVIII, No. 8. These eight specimens were selected from a large series of *mexicanus* to represent the extremes both in size and color. The twelve specimens of the new race are quite uniform and markedly different in size and color from the eight specimens of *mexicanus*.

In the table below I incorporate measurements of specimens of *M. mexicanus* from Sinaloa, geographically the nearest specimens Ridgway measured (Birds of N. & M. Amer., Part VI, p. 464). For further measurements see Ridgway's table, covering 56 specimens. It will be noted that the males of *vanrossemi* have a shorter wing and a shorter exposed culmen than any of the male specimens of the other races of *mexicanus* in the Dickey collection or of those listed by Ridgway. This seems to apply to individual as well as average measurements of *vanrossemi*, since there is not much variation.

Locality.	Aver. Wing.	Extremes of Wing Meas.	Aver. Tail.	Extremes of Tail Meas.	Aver. Exposed Culmen	Extremes of Culmen Meas.
MALES.						
Six adult males, Sonora (<i>vanrossemiti</i>).....	110.3	(109.1-112.2)	159.7	(152.7-166.9)	32.9 ²	(32.2-33.1)
Five adult males, Sinaloa (<i>mericanus</i> Ridg.)	116.3		160.5		38.2	
Two adult males, Colima (<i>mericanus</i> , Dickey col.).....	115.6	(115.5-115.6)	175.3	(169.1-181.4)	36.1	(33.3-38.9)
One adult male, Oaxaca (<i>m. saturatus</i> ³ Dickey col.).....	126.7		187.8		42.2	
Three adult males, Oaxaca ³ (<i>m. saturatus</i> ³ Dickey col.).....	120.		180.6		40.5	
FEMALES.						
Six adult females, Sonora (<i>vanrossemiti</i>).....	110.2	(108.4-112.5)	153.8 ⁴	(148-160.5)	32.8	(30.8-35.7)
Six adult females, Sinaloa (<i>mericanus</i> Ridg.)	110.7		153.5		37.7	
One adult female, Tepic (<i>mericanus</i> , Dickey col.).....	114.5				36.6	
Three adult females, Colima (<i>mericanus</i> , Dickey col.).....	115.8 ⁵	(113.4-118.1)	164.6	(151.6-173.1)	33.1	(32.4-36.6)
Two adult females, Oaxaca ³ (<i>m. saturatus</i> ³ Dickey col.).....	123.		182.		40.2	

²Average of four, two bills injured.³From measurements in notes of Mr. van Rossem⁴Measurement of five tails, one injured.⁵Average of two. One wing distorted.